

# NEWS

## From Supervisor Bill Postmus First District, San Bernardino County



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### **SUPERVISORS, MARINES AGREE TO 'AUTOMATIC' EMERGENCY SERVICES AID**

SAN BERNARDINO – The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday approved an agreement with the Barstow Marine Corps Logistics Base that will provide “automatic” mutual aid between the fire departments from the Marine Base and the County, primarily along the Interstate 15 and 40 freeways in the greater Barstow area.

“We’ve been looking forward to formalizing this agreement for some time,” said First District Supervisor Bill Postmus. “It’s a great deal for San Bernardino County and the safety of all travelers along the highways out there.”

On Tuesday the Board of Supervisors approved the Automatic/Mutual Aid agreement between the Marine Base and County Service Areas 70, 38, 29 (Lucerne Valley), and CSA 70 Improvement Zone W (Hinkley) for reciprocal emergency response services. The agreement will allow all parties to assist each other in the suppression of fires and in the provision of emergency medical services. The San Bernardino County Fire Department has numerous Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid Agreements with local, state and federal agencies.

In the agreement, the Base and the County agree to provide assistance mutually for emergency incidents that may surpass the receiving party's capabilities. Mutual-aid responses from either party can include such personnel, equipment, material and supplies as are customarily used within the sending party's jurisdiction.

The District will respond with the requested type of emergency equipment to an incident within the Base's jurisdictional boundaries. In turn, the Base will respond with the requested type of emergency equipment to an incident within the District's jurisdictional boundaries. Neither the District nor the Base, in rendering aid to the other, will be obligated to reduce their own resources to the extent that a situation is created that is detrimental to its citizens.

“This agreement formalizes mutual aid that has already existed because of County Fire’s close working relationship with all fire agencies in the County,” Postmus said. “Automatic aid is even better than mutual aid because our two agencies can respond to each other’s areas without first having been requested. I commend County Fire for negotiating this agreement.”